



FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

In 2016, America faced \$10.6 billion in property damage because of fires. Fire extinguishers are an important fire safety supplement to smoke alarms and established fire escape plans. If used properly, fire extinguishers can save lives and property, but it is always more important to prevent and escape fires safely.

TYPES OF FIRES

Some fire extinguishers are formulated to work best on specific types of fire. Knowing what fires may occur in certain areas of the home can help individuals choose the best extinguisher for that area. Fire types include:

- **Class A:** Ordinary combustibles such as cloth, wood, rubber paper and many plastics.
- **Class B:** Flammable liquids such as gasoline, oils, oil-based paint, alcohols, petroleum gasses and tars.
- **Class C:** Energized electric equipment such as appliances, tools and computers.
- **Class D:** Combustible industrial metals such as sodium, lithium, titanium, magnesium and potassium.
- **Class K:** Cooking oils and greases such as animal and vegetable fats.



FIRE EXTINGUISHER USE

- Fire extinguishers should only be used if the fire is contained to a single object and not spreading.
- Find an all-purpose extinguisher that can be used on all types of home fires.
- Extinguishers should be large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy that it makes handling them difficult.
- Become familiar with operating the fire extinguisher before a fire emergency occurs.
- Store fire extinguishers next to exits to ensure the fire is not blocking a safe escape if it spreads.
- Only use an extinguisher when the other occupants have escaped and someone has called the fire department.
- When using a fire extinguisher always remember P.A.S.S.
 - Pull the pin at the top of the extinguisher that keeps the handle from being accidentally pressed.
 - Aim the nozzle toward the base of the fire, standing approximately eight-feet away.
 - Squeeze the handle slowly and evenly.

